

Memo

To: County Judge, Commissioners

From: Historical Commission

RE: 2013-14 Historical Commission Grant Program

Allen Heritage Guild Grant \$900 for Signs and Brochures Explaining the Allen Heritage Village

The Allen Heritage Guild is requesting funds to help place permanent signs with names of buildings and the stories behind them at each structure and at farm equipment, total of eight; and to complete the package—develop and print a brochure with a map of the Village and the Vision for the park with an explanation of the three areas of the park. The three periods include The Frontier period—before the railroad; the Urban period—the 1920's and 1930's when Allen was in its hey-day; and the Agricultural area with a farmhouse, barns, and tenant house. Signs will be at the I-House, Lynge House, Allen Christian Church, Bolin House, Rowlett Farmhouse, Tenant House, Barn and shed, and Corn Sheller and plow. The tri-fold brochure explains the “Vision” for the Village and describes the three distinct areas. The center of the brochure will feature a map of the Village and around the map—a description of the structures and their history.

Anna Area Historic Preservation Society Grant \$3,500 for Lair Cemetery Restoration Project

The Lair Cemetery Restoration Project was created to preserve a vital Collin County legacy: the Lair Cemetery. The Lair Cemetery, near Anna, has been in existence since 1855 with the last burial in 1986. The cemetery is approximately 65 feet square. The Lair Cemetery was named for Dr. William Dixon Lair, who was elected to the Texas State Senate twice. In 1995, a vandal drove a car through the cemetery breaking several of the monuments/markers and doing considerable damage to others. There are flowers, trees and bushes which have been neglected and overgrown. Fencing needs to be repaired and possibly totally reconstructed. The Anna Area Historic Preservation Society plans to restore the many grave markers which would include at least thirteen. Restoration of the markers will be a great step in restoring the appearance and notoriety to the Lair Cemetery.

Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation Grant \$3,000 for Restoring Damaged Markers

The Bear Creek Cemetery, near Nevada, contains about 180 marked graves, including some that are only marked with bois d' arc posts or fieldstones. Many markers are broken, crooked, leaning, fallen, and are in need of cleaning. Due to a Collin County Historical Commission workshop in 2011 the Foundation has been able to clean, repair and level a number of the smaller markers. Forty of the largest and most prominent markers were leveled and repaired in the last two years as a result of two grants from the Collin County Historical Commission. Now the group would like to repair at least 25 of the worst of the remaining damaged markers. Many of these are tablet markers that are lying flat on the ground and broken in pieces, with missing or broken bases. In this condition, the engraving is deteriorating much faster than if they were properly upright.

Cemetery Association of Murphy Grant \$1,750 for Cleaning Gravestones and Provide Needed Crosses

The Association has repaired stones for the past 20 years, but many have not been cleaned in 100 years and the stones have become unreadable. An historic preservation specialist will assist the Association in cleaning the

mold and lichen off several of the worst gravestones. Lichen and mold will eat the stone and eventually, there will be nothing etched on the stone. Twenty gravestones will be cleaned during the month long work. There are many graves in the cemetery that have no markers or just a footstone or base marker. The Association purchased a cross in Canton, at Trade Days, painted it white and placed it on one of the grave sites. The group would like to purchase 15 more crosses for more sites that are known and marked, but not recognizable.

Collin County Genealogical Society Grant \$3,100 for Digitizing Collin County's Historical Newspapers

Until the Collin County Historical Commission's grant awarded in 2011 allowed digitization of some of the old McKinney newspapers, very little of Collin County's history that had been recorded in newspapers from the 1800's had been digitized and made freely available to the public. The Society will partner with the University of North Texas's "Texas Digital Newspaper Program" and be able to digitize and make available online to a world wide audience the contents of thirteen microfilm rolls. This includes *The Frisco Journal*, available from 1912-1930, *McKinney Courier Gazette*, 2-3 microfilm rolls, and the *Plano Star Courier*, starting in 1904 and concluding in 1923. The content of these newspapers can then be found via search engines like Google or through direct searches at The Portal to Texas History Web site. Descendants of Collin County's early settlers can read about their ancestors. Students can use this historical county information in school reports. Residents can more easily read about Collin County's history and landmarks.

Heritage Association of Frisco Grant \$500 for Educating the Public about the Pioneer History and the Days of the Shawnee Cattle Drive

The 2013 is scheduled for October 26 and will begin at 11 a.m. and go until 4 p.m. It is a family-oriented western pioneer day celebrating the Shawnee Trail and the roots of the city of Frisco. The Texana Living History Association would provide the educational program for the festival. Texana will provide historical reenactments of every day pioneer life- such as scrub- board laundry, quilting, prairie toys, corn grinding, butter churning, and a display and description of how animal furs were used in every day Collin County life,. Adults and children will experience hands-on interaction.

Heritage Association of Frisco Grant \$3,400 for Repairs of Deteriorating Log Cabin

The log cabin that was near the LBJ ranch was one of the first original buildings brought to the grounds of the Heritage Center. Unfortunately, nature has not been completely held at bay. Several of the original logs have begun to deteriorate. The most noticeable, and most hazardous, are the logs which support the roof of the cabin's porch. These posts are quickly rotting away, including a central post that has worn away to half of its original size. In order to ensure the ongoing safety of visitors, the Heritage Association of Frisco wishes to repair the deterioration of the cabin's wood. Also the Association would like to display a panel by the cabin, providing visitors a brief history of log cabins in the area. The 18' x 24" high pressure laminate panel would provide history in a visually pleasing manner, incorporating pictures to reinforce the information and draw the eye.

Heritage Farmstead Museum of Plano Grant \$1,000 for Replacing a Damaged Wagon

The Heritage Farmstead Museum offers wagon rides for school tours, special events, birthday parties, and pre-school programs. Passengers experience the gentle rocking as the John Deere Tractor pulls the wagon around the 4.5 acre farmstead. Visitors would see the Farrell-Wilson House, outbuildings, the grounds, boar goats, Hampshire sheep, donkeys, chickens and turkeys as they travel the farmstead trail. The current wagon has axle

damage and the wood is rotting as well as the overall structure has weakened over time. The Museum would like to purchase a new wagon to replace the current wagon; a wagon that would replicate many of the wagons used during the time period represented by Heritage Farmstead Museum. Hansen Wheel and Wagon Shop out of South Dakota is a family owned business specializing in the sale and restoration of western horse-drawn vehicles, stagecoaches, cannon and wagon wheel, parts and supplies-as well as museum service. Historic authenticity and superior quality is their trademark.

The Murphy Historical Society Grant \$3,000 for Restoration of the Herring-Hogge Cemetery

The Murphy Historical Society plans to focus on the Herring Hogge Cemetery, which is in desperate need of repair and has no caretakers. The Herring Hogge Cemetery is located on the corner of Skyline Drive and South Murphy Road in Murphy. The cemetery entombs two well-known citizens, Daniel Herring, a seventh generation Native American and Eli Hogge who served in the Confederate army and fought at the Battle of Shiloh. Restoration includes leveling, cleaning, and resetting the largest stones that are in danger of falling. The restoration requires the use of large equipment and has a \$4,000 minimum limit. Twelve yards of fill dirt are needed for the leveling of all stones and almost every stone and footstone are in need of repair, cleaning, and leveling. The cemetery has a major drainage problem. Heavy equipment will be utilized in the cemetery to remove, repair, clean, and reset the four largest stones.

The Plano Conservancy Grant \$1,850 for Complete Renovation Work in Bethany Cemetery

The goals of the Bethany Cemetery project includes unearthing sunken stones, stone renovation, leveling the ground, replacing crumbled foundations, cleaning stones, removal of dead tree limbs, and applying for the Texas Historic Cemetery Medallion. This request will help with the restoration which will be performed by the professional services of Texas Cemetery Restoration Inc. The pioneer cemeteries in Plano have been affected by the loss of an older generation who willingly embraced a comprehensive caretaking role for these sites. Thus the role has passed to preservation organizations, such as The Plano Conservancy.

Snow Hill Cemetery Association Grant \$2,000 for Leveling Markers

In 1893, the Snow Hill Baptist Church was established and those same church members and community leaders established the Snow Hill Cemetery Association in the early 1900s. The Association is seeking funding for a program to level additional markers to prevent further damage. The Snow Hill Cemetery is located on Collin County Road 621, east of County Road 619, five miles north of Farmersville. The goal is to level as many markers as possible and each year continue with an ongoing program until most of the markers have been leveled.